

WEST CHESTER ROUTE

1. **Chester County Historic Courthouse** – The Chester County Courthouse has been in this location since the late 1700's. The main portion of the Chester County Historic Courthouse as it stands today was constructed between 1846 and 1848, opening on February 22, 1948. The original building was designed in the Late Victorian style by famed architect Thomas U. Walter who also designed the United States Capital's dome and both the House and Senate wings, among other federal buildings. In 1891 the Court House Annex was completed in the Italian Renaissance style and in 1964 the final expansion of the building was completed on the North wing. In 1972, the courthouse was placed on the National Register Historic Places. Today, the courthouse no longer houses the Chester County Courts system but does house other governmental offices.

Source: <http://www.chesco.org/121/History>

2. **West Chester University of Pennsylvania** – West Chester University has been a school in the borough of West Chester since 1812, known then as the West Chester Academy. In 1871, the privately owned school became the West Chester Normal School. The state took ownership of the normal school in 1913 and the school was renamed the West Chester State Teachers College in 1927. The school was designated the West Chester State College in 1960 and became West Chester University, as it is known today, on July 1, 1983. The West Chester State College Quadrangle Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1981. Significant buildings within the district on campus include Philips Memorial Building, Ruby Jones Hall, Recitation Hall, and the Old Library.

Source: <https://www.wcupa.edu/services/stu.nsp/parentHandbook/history.aspx>

3. **Everhart Park** – The 10-acre Everhart Park was created from land donated to West Chester Borough in 1905 by Dr. Isaiah Everhart, a nephew of the original property owner William S. Everhart. This place was the scene of many important events throughout its history even before being officially designated as a park, from abolitionist and temperance meetings to political rallies; the park was even a Civil War camp used to train the First West Chester Volunteer Regiment. Today, the park features a large gazebo originally constructed in 1908 over the stream that traverses the park. Everhart Park is known for its vast array of very old hardwood trees that encompass much of the property. Today, the park has a stewardship group called the Friends of Everhart Park who help fund projects to maintain the park, along with West Chester Borough.

Source: <https://www.friendsofeverhartpark.com/>

4. **County of Chester Justice Center** – The County of Chester Justice Center is the new county courthouse, built in 2008. West Chester is the county seat for Chester County and the building hosts offices associated with the courts and the Chester County Sheriff offices. The Justice Center is open Monday – Friday from 8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

5. **Chester County Historical Society** – The Chester County Historical Society (CCHS) was founded in 1893. Today, CCHS houses a museum on Chester County history and other historic exhibits. Home to extensive archives collections of Chester County artifacts, manuscripts, photographs and more, CCHS offers visitors the ability to research in the society’s library. CCHS hosts lectures and events about the history of Chester County each month and has space for large events such as weddings. To learn more about CCHS and explore Chester County history, visit the website www.chestercohistorical.org.

Source: www.chestercohistorical.org